AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for decreasing a level of aggregate of pegylated protein isoforms, **wherein the pegylated protein is a growth hormone antagonist**, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) providing said pegylated protein isoforms; and
(b) separating said pegylated protein isoforms by anion exchange chromatography using an anion exchange resin under sufficient conditions to decrease said level of said aggregate.

2. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 further comprising the step (al) of pegylating unpegylated or a partially pegylated form of ~~said~~ **the** protein, or pegylating both to provide said pegylated protein isoforms.

3. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein said pegylating step (al) comprises pegylating with free PEG selected from the group consisting of PEG-N-hydroxysuccinimide-5K, PEG-succinimidyl carbonate-5K, PEG-succinimidyl propionate-5K, PEG2-malemide-40K (2 x 20K), PEG2-N-hydroxysuccimide-40K (2 x 20K), PEG2-aldehyde-40K (2 x 20K).

4. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein a stoichiometric weight ratio of said free PEG to said unpegylated protein is from about 0.5 to about 100.

5. (Original) The process of claim 4 wherein said stoichiometric weight ratio is from about 1.5 to about 2.5.

Claims 6-7 (cancelled)

8. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein said pegylating step (al) is conducted at pegylating pH from about 3 to about 10.

9-11. (previously canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~10~~ **8** wherein said pegylating pH is from about 7.40 to about 7.80.

13-14. (previously canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~13~~ **2** wherein said **pegylation step (a1) is conducted at a** pegylating temperature from about 18 to about 25 °C.

16. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 further comprising an optional **hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC)** ~~HIC~~ step ~~(a2)~~ of selecting said pegylated protein by hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC) using an HIC resin.

17. (Currently amended) The process of claim 2 further comprising an optional **hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC)** ~~HIC~~ step (a2) selecting said pegylated protein by hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC) using an HIC resin.

18-19. (previously canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~18~~ **17** wherein said HIC load is less than or equal to about 4.1 g protein/L of packed bed-volume of HIC resin.

21-22. (previously canceled)

23. (Original) The process of claim 17 wherein said HIC step (a2) is conducted at HIC temperature from about 10 to about 40 °C.

24-25 (previously canceled).

26. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~16~~ **17** further comprising a **ultrafiltering/diafiltering (UF/DF#3)** ~~UF/DF#3~~ step (a3) ultrafiltering/diafiltering (UF/DF#3) of an eluent from said HIC step (a2).

27-30 (previously canceled).

31. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said step (b) further comprises a step (bl) of loading said pegylated protein including any impurity and any aggregate thereof on said anion exchange (AEX) resin to provide loaded pegylated protein.

32-33 (previously canceled).

34. (Original) The process of claim 31 wherein said step (bl) is conducted at an AEX loading conductivity of less than or equal to about 10 mS/cm.

35-36 (previously canceled).

37. (Original). The process of claim 31 wherein said step (bl) is conducted at a loading pH from about 5 to about 10.

38-39 (previously canceled).

40. (Original) The process of claim 31 wherein said step (bl) is conducted at an AEX load of pegylated protein including any impurity or said aggregate thereof of less than or equal to about 10 g protein/L of packed bed-volume of AEX resin.

41-42 (previously canceled).

43. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein said pegylated protein comprises one or more of said pegylated protein isoforms PEG-l, PEG-2, PEG-3, PEG-4,PEG-5, PEG-6, PEG-7, PEG-8, and PEG-9 and any aggregate, trisulfide impurity and des-phe impurity thereof and any unpegylated impurity of said protein and any free PEG molecules.

44-50 (previously canceled).

51. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein said pegylated protein **isoforms** comprises one or more of ~~said pegylated protein~~ **the** isoforms PEG-l, PEG-2, PEG-3, PEG-4, PEG-5, PEG-6, PEG-7, PEG-8, and PEG-9 and any aggregate, trisulfide impurity and des-phe impurity thereof.

52-53 (previously canceled).

54. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 further comprising a pooling step (c) of pooling discrete amounts of said pegylated protein isoforms to yield a pooled pegylated protein by. a technique selected from the group consisting of capillary electrophoresis (CE), sodium dodeCyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), ~~ion exchange (IEX) chromatography,~~ hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC), anion exchange (AEX) chromatography, cation exchange (CEX) chromatography, reverse-phase high pressure liquid chromatography (RPHPLC), size exclusion high pressure liquid chromatography (SEHPLC), affinity chromatography (AC) and combinations thereof.

55-204 (previously canceled).

205. (new) The process of claim 1 wherein said growth hormone antagonist is a human growth hormone antagonist.

206. (new) The process of claim 1 wherein said human growth hormone antagonist is B-2036.

207. (new) The process of claim 206 wherein said human growth hormone antagonist comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

208. (new) The process of claim 54 wherein said growth hormone antagonist is a human growth hormone antagonist.

209. (new) The process of claim 208 wherein said human growth hormone antagonist is B-2036.

210. (new) The process of claim 209 wherein said human growth hormone antagonist comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

211. (new) The process of claim 54 wherein said pooled pegylated protein comprises isoforms PEG-4, PEG-5, and PEG-6.

212. (new) The process of claim 54 wherein said pooled pegylated protein comprises at least 90% by weight based on a total weight of PEG-1, PEG-2, PEG-3, PEG-4, PEG-5, PEG-6, PEG-7, PEG-8 and PEG-9 pegylated protein isoforms and any aggregate thereof.

213. (new) The process of claim 54 wherein said pooled pegylated protein comprises at least 94% by weight based on a total weight of PEG-1, PEG-2, PEG-3, PEG-4, PEG-5, PEG-6, PEG-7, PEG-8 and PEG-9 pegylated protein isoforms and any aggregate thereof.

214 (new) The process of claim 54 wherein said pooled pegylated protein consists essentially of isoforms PEG-3, PEG-4, PEG-5, PEG-6, and PEG-7.

215 (new) The process of claim 54 wherein said pooled pegylated protein consists essentially of isoforms PEG-4, PEG-5, and PEG-6.

216 (new) The process of claim 1 wherein said level of aggregate is less than or equal to about 5% by weight of the pegylated protein.

217 (new) The process of claim 1 wherein said level of aggregate is less than or equal to about 2% by weight of the pegylated protein.